



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

4425 West Olive Avenue, Suite 134 Glendale, AZ 85302

602-255-5211 FAX 602-255-1950 800-277-6675

www.azdwm.gov

CONTACT: Dennis Ehrhart, Assistant Director

MOBILE: (602) 295-7187

DIRECT: (623) 463-9937

E-MAIL: dehrhart@azdwm.gov

Press Release - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2005

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS WEIGHTS & MEASURES WEEK

On February 16, 2005 Governor Janet Napolitano proclaimed February 28 through March 4 as Arizona Weights and Measures Week, in recognition of the 206th Anniversary of the signing of the first Weights and Measures law in the United States on March 2, 1799 and to recognize the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

The week recognizes the important service to the community performed by over 3,000 state, county and local Weights and Measures officials across the nation. In Arizona, over 50% of an average family's income is spent on items sold by weight, measure, or count, which is regulated by the Department of Weights & Measures. In Arizona, these services cost each taxpayer approximately 25 cents per year.

"Because U.S. sales of products and services inspected by Weights and Measures total over \$4.13 trillion annually, the work of the Weights and Measures officials has a significant impact on our communities and our nation. It is vital to maintaining consumer confidence in the marketplace, promoting fair competition among business, and ensuring a strong national economy," stated Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano.

How Weights & Measures Works for You

The primary mission of the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures is to ensure equity in the marketplace. They do this by checking for accuracy in a number of different areas. For example, during fiscal year 2004, the Department conducted over 30,000 inspections that included:

- 2,233 price posting inspections were conducted to ensure that the price was either on or near the products being offered or exposed for sale, 31% failed.
- 1,974 UPC inspections were conducted to ensure that the item or display price was the same as the price scanned at the checkout, 47% failed.
- 747 fuel quality inspections were conducted at gas dispensers throughout Arizona, 7% failed to meet state fuel quality requirements.
- 6,562 fuel volume inspections were conducted at gasoline dispensers throughout Arizona, 10% failed to meet state accuracy requirements.

- 143 large-scale inspections were conducted, 21% failed accuracy requirements.
- 4,696 small-scale inspections were conducted, 7% failed accuracy requirements.
- 11,272 package inspections (checking the net content of packaged goods) were conducted, 6% failed accurate labeling or quantity requirements.
- 401 taximeters were tested, 15% failed labeling or accuracy requirements.
- 1,528 vapor recovery gas-dispensing systems were tested in Maricopa County as part of the air quality program, 19% failed.
- During fiscal year 2004 the Department received and investigated 2,666 consumer complaints.

Educating Young Consumers

To celebrate Weights and Measures Week, the Department will hold two educational events for elementary school students.

Who and When:

- Monday, February 28th from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. – 50 fourth graders from Granada East Elementary School
- Thursday March 3rd at 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. – 32 third graders from Thomas J. Pappas School

Where:

- Bashas' located at 5521 N. 7th Street (7th Street and Missouri) in Phoenix.

During the events Department personnel will show the students how different Weights and Measures programs affect their families while they are shopping. *"We relish the opportunity to educate consumers especially at this young age. We hope these young consumers will share some of their newly acquired shopping skills with friends and family,"* says Art Macias, Director of the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures.

"Accuracy in the marketplace is our top priority. We're your advocates and we work hard to ensure you get what you pay for. Consumers and businesses are our eyes and ears in the marketplace so responding to their concerns is important to us," stated Director Macias.

If you think the gasoline pump at the corner station is incorrect, an item scans the wrong price at the checkout counter or the weight or measure of any product you purchase is incorrect and the seller won't resolve the problem, contact the Department at (602) 255-5211 or visit their new website at www.azdwm.gov to learn more about your rights.

<<END>>